TO: Faculty, Master’s-Level Students  
        Academic Dean  
DATE: April 2014

During the Fall 2014 and January 2015 terms Austin Seminary will offer, for academic credit, several seminars with travel components. This memorandum provides information about these opportunities. The costs listed are in addition to Seminary tuition. Students are allowed to take one Travel Seminar (indicated as such in this memo and categorized as such in the Catalogue) for academic credit. These seminars offer an extraordinary opportunity to expand horizons and to gain a deeper understanding of our faith and the world around us. The Gunther scholarships provide support to make it possible to take advantage of these opportunities.

**Gunther Scholarships**

The Elma Gunther Scholarship for International Study provides a one-time grant for each master’s-level student involved in an approved cross-cultural or international educational experience. The travel seminar to New Haven does qualify for the grant; the Seminarians Interacting Program does not. In the past, the seminary has provided grants covering up to half of the cost of the seminar, up to a maximum of $1,400. Funds are distributed based on the number of grants requested, i.e., the more grants requested, the less each person receives.

A student desiring this grant must apply in writing. The application form is available from Alison Riemersma in the Academic Dean’s office. The application is due in October for January seminars and March for summer seminars.

**Fall 2014**

*I.199 The Church, The Public Good, and the Borderlands*

Dr. Gregory Cuéllar

This seminar introduces participants to the history, landscapes, people, and challenges of the Texas Borderlands. Through selected readings, guest speakers, on-site investigation, and conversation with local religious and community leaders, participants explore issues such as poverty, immigration, crime, health, and environmental concerns in South Texas. The group engages in theological and ethical reflection about these issues, the relationship of church and state, and the role of the faith community in creating the public good. Places visited may include Eagle Pass, Laredo, McAllen, Brownsville, and the Eagle Ford Shale region of Texas.

| Schedule |
|---|---|
| Dates | Class Time |
| September 25 | 5:30 PM-7:30 PM |
| October 9 | 5:30 PM-7:30 PM |
| October 13-October 17 | Travel to the Borderlands |
| October 23 | 5:30 PM-7:30 PM |
| November 6 | 5:30 PM-7:30 PM |

Cost: $1, 250

*NOTE: This course is an intensive course with a travel component. It is not classified as a Travel Seminar, and does not count as the one Travel Seminar that a student may take for credit.
The purpose of this seminar is to introduce participants to the history and geography of the biblical period. The seminar consists of lectures, readings, visits to sites and museums, and a research paper due at the end of the course. Travel destinations include Israel and Jordan. Six credits.

Cost: Approx. $4000  
Dates: January 13-26, 2014

Crosscurrents in Christian Worldwide Witness Today
This course offers students the opportunity to travel to New Haven, Connecticut to study at the Overseas Ministries Study Center. A variety of courses are offered during the three-week term in January. For more information contact the Academic Dean’s Office. Credits may vary.

Cost: Approx. $300 per week for tuition, lodging and meals, plus airfare  
Dates: Three weeks in January

Sharing Our Faith Traditions
This course builds upon the Sharing Our Faith Traditions (SOFT) program, a retreat sponsored by the Multicultural Alliance that brings protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim seminarians together to engage each other around a particular theme related to interfaith dialogue, and to explore the richness of each tradition. Scholars from each tradition lecture on the theme of the year. Students conduct worship services, meet in plenary and small groups, and complete written assignments. The retreat is ordinarily scheduled for four days during the first week in January. Three credits.

Cost: Two students may attend for free if they do not wish to receive academic credit. If students wish to receive academic credit, they must pay tuition for those credits.  
Dates: January 5-8, 2015